



# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

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## SPORTS



Freeman Sweeps Region 5B • 7A

## INSIDE



USA Weekend

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## YSD, YEA Reach Tentative Agreement

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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Approximately one month after negotiations reached an impasse, a tentative agreement has been made between the Yankton School District and the Yankton Education Association (YEA) concerning the master teacher contract.



Fitzgerald

Talks between the two sides came to a halt last month when an agreement could not be reached regarding several contract issues, including teacher pay and revisions to the health care plan. Yankton School Board president Jim Fitzgerald declared an impasse on April 24, followed by the YEA filing for conciliation with the Department of Labor on May 1. Following a special school board meeting Thursday to discuss contract negotiations in executive session, Fitzgerald told the *Press & Dakotan* that the district and the YEA had reached a tentative agreement earlier in the day during conciliation. Attending the discussion were representatives from YSD, the YEA

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## 'Sending A Message'

### SD Couples Challenge Gay Marriage Ban

BY CARSON WALKER AND KEVIN BURBACH  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — Six couples filed a federal lawsuit Thursday seeking to block South Dakota's gay marriage ban, leaving North Dakota as the only state in the country with an unchallenged law prohibiting same-sex weddings.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls, challenges a 1996 law passed by the

Legislature and a voter-approved 2006 constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, which means such cases are now pending in 30 states with gay marriage bans. The lawsuit also challenges a U.S. provision allowing states not to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

In 19 states and the District of Columbia, gay couples already can wed, with Oregon and Pennsylvania becoming the latest to join the list this week when federal judges struck down their bans

and officials decided not to appeal. South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has said he's obligated by law to defend both the state constitution and state statutes.

He's among the defendants that also include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Health Secretary Doneen Hollingsworth, Public Safety Secretary Trevor Jones, Pennington County Register of Deeds Donna Mayer and Brown County Register of Deeds Carol Sherman.

Five of the couples already got married in

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## Making A Lasting Impact



DEREK BARTOS/P&D

Stephanie Smolek is the new 4-H/youth development coordinator for Yankton County. Smolek, who started her position May 1, will be involved with all 4-H activities in Yankton County, as well as additional youth programming.

## New 4-H Leader Ready To Help Meet The Needs Of Area Youth

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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When Stephanie Smolek was growing up in northeast Nebraska, 4-H was an integral part of her childhood.

From age 9-18, the Battle Creek (Nebraska) native took part in a variety of projects, including the horse project, rabbit project, photography, sewing and various crafts.

"It made a lasting impact on my life," Smolek said. Now, as the new 4-H/youth development coordinator for Yankton County, Smolek has the opportunity to help others get the most from their 4-H experiences, as well.

"The best part of this is working with the kids — getting

to see them grow and advance, starting as little Cloverbuds and going all the way up to when they graduate," she said.

Smolek started her new role on May 1. She replaces Lauren Fosheim, who left the position earlier this year to manage the Young Professionals Network through the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

After graduating from high school, Smolek continued her education in agriculture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, obtaining bachelors degrees in animal science and agricultural journalism. Following her senior year, she

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## State Looks Into Legal Options For Sewage Issue

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Although the owner of a mobile home park west of Yankton told state officials Thursday that a contractor had been summoned to look at a failing septic system, legal steps are being explored in case the situation is not remedied soon.

Raw sewage has been surfacing periodically at the Lakeside Mobile Home Park along Deer Boulevard since January. RV Horizons of Cedaredge, Colo., purchased the park earlier this year and inherited the issue.

Kent Woodmansey, an engineering manager with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the agency will likely begin collaborating with the South Dakota Attorney General's Office in an effort to make sure the problem is remedied soon.

"I think we'll be working with the attorney general's office on a schedule for them to come into compliance," Woodmansey said. "If they won't correct the problem, we'll be working with (the attorney general) on the filing of a lawsuit. We have rules for septic

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## Wausa Discusses 5-School Study

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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WAUSA, Neb. — Representatives of five area school districts will meet next month with Northeast Community College (NECC) officials in Norfolk, Neb., to explore joint academic opportunities.

The meeting represents the next step of the five-school study involving Wausa, Bloomfield, Creighton, Plainview and Osmond in northeast Nebraska.

"We're going to Northeast on June 19 for the day, to hold a curriculum planning session," said Wausa superintendent Bob Marks,

who also serves Bloomfield. Northeast not only can offer their advice, but they may have resources that can benefit the five schools, Marks said. That's particularly true in areas requiring instructors with advanced degrees or where small districts cannot find or afford those teachers, he said.

At Wednesday's community meeting in Wausa, Marks presented a progress report to the audience filling one side of the school gym. He emphasized that much misinformation has surrounded the process.

"This process started collectively. It's a collaborative study,"

he said. "It's not undertaken out of necessity or desperation. It's how we can collectively serve our needs."

Marks noted the first multi-school study in December 2006 included Bloomfield, Niobrara and Wausa. No action arose from that discussion, he said.

The second multi-school study began last October, starting with Creighton and Plainview. Then, Wausa and Bloomfield joined, with Osmond the last to join.

The current feasibility study looks at factors such as personnel, finances and enrollment trends,

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D  
Wausa school board president Darren Vanness offers his thoughts and answers questions during Wednesday's community meeting on a five-school study.

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